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1. **(Currently Amended)** A method for pre-processing an access plan generated for a query in a relational database management system to include a direct call mechanism replacing a lookup function of a run-time interpreter, said access plan including a plurality of operation codes, each of said operation codes being associated with one or more executable functions for performing the query, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) determining from the access plan an executable function associated with a first operation code; and

(b) augmenting said first operation code in the access plan with a pointer to said executable function to provide a direct call mechanism replacing a lookup function of a run-time interpreter.

2. The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising repeating steps (a) and (b) for the remaining operation codes in the access plan.

3. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said step (b) comprises augmenting said first operation code in the access plan with a pointer to an intermediate function, said intermediate function including a data structure for storing a pointer to said executable function.

4. The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein said data structure includes means for storing information associated with said executable function or said first operation code.

5. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said step (b) comprises augmenting said first operation code in the access plan with a second pointer to a data structure, said data structure providing means for storing information associated with said first operation code or said

executable function.

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6. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said step (a) further includes assessing the executable function associated with the first operation code and if applicable, replacing the call to the executable function with a call to a second executable function.

7. The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein said intermediate function includes processing operations for the first operation code or the executable function associated with the first operation code.

8. The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein said processing operations in the intermediate function include gathering statistics on the use of the executable function associated with the operation code.

9. The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein said processing operations in the intermediate function include a pause for receiving user input before or after the call to the executable function.

10. **(Currently Amended)** A computer program product for use on a computer wherein queries are entered by a user for retrieving data in a relational database management system having a query optimizer for generating an access plan for executing the query, said query optimizer including a direct call mechanism replacing the lookup function of a run-time interpreter, said computer program product comprising:

a recording medium;

means recorded on said recording medium for instructing said computer to perform the steps of:

B1 (a) determining an executable function associated with a first operation code in the access plan, the first operation code being one of a plurality of operation codes; and

(b) augmenting said first operation code in the access plan with a pointer to said executable function to provide a direct call mechanism replacing a lookup function of a run-time interpreter.

11. The computer program product as claimed in claim 10, the means for instructing said computer further comprising repeating steps (a) and (b) for the remaining operation codes in the access plan.

12. The computer program product as claimed in claim 10, wherein said step (b) comprises augmenting said first operation code in the access plan with a pointer to an intermediate function, said intermediate function including a data structure for storing a pointer to said executable function.

13. The computer program product as claimed in claim 12, wherein said data structure includes means for storing information associated with said executable function or said first operation code.

14. The computer program product as claimed in claim 10, wherein said step (b) comprises augmenting said first operation code in the access plan with another pointer to a data structure, said data structure providing means for storing information associated with said first operation code or said executable function.

15. The computer program product as claimed in claim 10, wherein said step (a) further includes assessing the executable function associated with the first operation code and if applicable, replacing a call to the executable function with a call to another executable function.

16. The computer program product as claimed in claim 12, wherein said intermediate function includes processing operations for the first operation code or the executable function associated with the first operation code.

17. The computer program product as claimed in claim 16, wherein said processing operations in the intermediate function include gathering statistics on the use of the executable function associated with the first operation code.

18. The computer program product as claimed in claim 12, wherein said processing operations in the intermediate function include a pause for receiving user input before or after a call to the executable function.

19. **(Currently Amended)** A relational database management system for use with a computer system wherein queries are entered by a user for retrieving data from tables, the relational database management system including a query optimizer for generating an access plan associated with the queries entered by the user, said query optimizer including a direct call mechanism replacing a lookup function of a run-time interpreter, said relational database management system comprising:

(a) means for determining an executable function associated with each of a plurality of operation codes in the access plan; and

(b) means for augmenting said operation codes in the access plan with a pointer to said executable function associated with each operation code to provide a direct call mechanism replacing a lookup function of a run-time interpreter.

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20. The relational database management system as claimed in claim 19, wherein said means for augmenting said operation codes includes means for replacing said operation codes in the access plan with a pointer to an intermediate function, said intermediate function including a data structure for storing a pointer to said executable function.

21. The relational database management system as claimed in claim 20, wherein said data structure includes means for storing information associated with said executable function or said operation codes.

22. The relational database management system as claimed in claim 19, wherein said means for augmenting said operation codes includes means for adding another pointer to a data structure, said data structure providing means for storing information associated with said operation codes or said executable function.